

# Nebraska Agri-Facts

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**IN  
THIS  
ISSUE**

*Cattle on Feed  
Annual Milk Production  
Annual Chicken & Eggs  
Potato Stocks  
Crop Values  
Farm Labor & Wages*

*Dear producers and other data users:*

*Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.*

*Mark Harris*  
State Statistician

## Nebraska Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Nebraska feedlots, with capacities of 1,000 or more head, contained 2.28 million cattle on feed on February 1, up 3 percent from last year but slightly below February 1, 2002. Placements of cattle into feedlots during January totaled 380,000 head, down 21 percent from 2003 and 22 percent below 2002. Fed cattle marketings for the month of January totaled 360,000 head, down 8 percent from last year and 11 percent below January two years ago. Other disappearance during January totaled 20,000 head compared with 10,000 head during January 2003 and 25,000 head during January 2002.

## U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 4 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.1 million head on February 1, 2004. The inventory was 4 percent above February 1, 2003 but 4 percent below February 1, 2002. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.75 million, 16 percent below 2003 and 20 percent below 2002. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.78 million, down 10 percent from 2003 and down 14 percent from 2002. Other disappearance totaled 94,000 during January, 25 percent above 2003 and 6 percent above 2002.

**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2003-2004**

State	February 1 Number on Feed <sup>1</sup>			January Placements			January Marketings			January Other Disappearance <sup>2</sup>		
	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>
	1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent	
Arizona	291	296	102	29	32	110	24	26	108	3	3	100
California	*480	500	104	58	55	95	67	60	90	6	5	83
Colorado	1,030	1,040	101	225	165	73	205	160	78	10	5	50
Idaho	*290	275	95	56	41	73	65	64	98	1	2	200
Iowa	*390	380	97	69	59	86	*72	47	65	2	2	100
Kansas	2,220	2,420	109	540	455	84	500	440	88	20	25	125
Nebraska	2,220	2,280	103	480	380	79	390	360	92	10	20	200
New Mexico	114	117	103	9	17	189	13	13	100	1	2	200
Oklahoma	330	350	106	*46	50	109	49	53	108	2	2	100
So. Dakota	215	200	93	*46	30	65	*45	29	64	1	1	100
Texas	2,600	2,770	107	420	390	93	435	430	99	15	20	133
Washington	180	185	103	36	26	72	39	40	103	2	1	50
Other States	340	310	91	75	46	61	68	60	88	2	6	300
United States	*10,700	11,123	104	*2,089	1,746	84	*1,972	1,782	90	75	94	125

\* Revised. <sup>1</sup> Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. <sup>2</sup> Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed, February 20, 2004.

**Milk Cows: Licensed Dairy Operations, Number, and Milk Produced by Quarter,  
Nebraska and United States, 2002-2003**

State and Month	Licensed Dairy Operations		Milk Cows		Production per Cow		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Number</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>	
Nebraska								
January - March			68	66			297	297
April - June			67	65			298	294
July - September			67	63			282	268
October - December			66	62			290	270
Annual	540	500	67	64	17,418	17,641	1,167	1,129
United States - Annual	74,110	70,410	9,139	9,084	18,608	18,749	170,063	170,312

Source: USDA NASS Milk Production, February 17, 2004 and USDA NASS Licensed Dairy Herds, February 17, 2004.

**Chickens: Inventory By Type, Nebraska and United States, December 1, 2002-2003**

Item	Nebraska			United States		
	2002	2003	2003/2002	2002	2003	2003/2002
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Percent</i>
All Chickens	13,747	14,223	103	443,881	448,748	101
Total Layers	11,536	11,800	102	339,203	339,989	100
Pullets 13 weeks old and older but less than 20 weeks	963	562	58	39,679	42,030	106
Pullet chicks and pullets under 13 weeks of age	1,248	1,861	149	56,646	58,291	103
Other chickens	0	0		8,353	8,438	101

Source: USDA NASS Chickens and Eggs 2003 Summary, January 2004.

**Eggs: Production, Average Number and Eggs per Layer, Nebraska and United States 2002-2003**

Item	Nebraska		United States	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
Eggs Produced ( <i>million</i> )	2,977	3,126	87,179	87,196
Average Number of Layers ( <i>thousand</i> )	11,594	11,746	337,380	335,368
Eggs per Layer ( <i>number</i> )	257	266	257	259

Source: USDA NASS Chickens and Eggs 2003 Summary, January 2004.

**Potato Stocks**

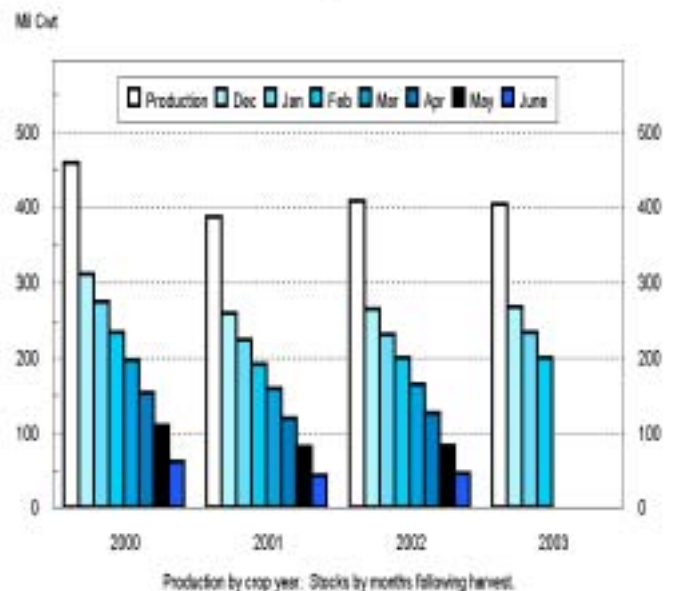
**Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on  
February 1, 2004<sup>1</sup>**

State	Crop of 2003	
	Production	Total Stocks Feb. 1, 2004
	<i>Thousand Cwt.</i>	
California	3,444	2,000
Colorado	23,652	12,200
Idaho	123,180	67,000
Maine	17,030	10,500
Michigan	15,015	5,600
Minnesota	22,330	11,100
Montana	3,339	3,000
NEBRASKA	9,860	4,500
New York	6,510	2,400
North Dakota	27,440	15,000
Ohio	1,290	130
Oregon	20,991	13,500
Pennsylvania	3,915	1,100
Washington	93,150	38,000
Wisconsin	32,800	14,500
Total 15 States	403,946	200,530

<sup>1</sup> Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crops.

Source: USDA NASS Potato Stocks, February 13, 2004.

**Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks  
15 Storage States**



**Crop Summary: Marketing Year Average Price and Value of Production, Nebraska and United States, 2001-2003**

Crop	Prod. Unit	Price			Value of Production		
		2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
		Dollars			1,000 Dollars		
Nebraska							
Corn for Grain	Bushels	1.94	2.32	2.45	2,210,145	2,182,656	2,754,290
Sorghum for Grain	Cwt.	3.23	4.23	4.30	64,574	35,532	74,648
Oats	Bushels	1.59	2.00	1.50	5,819	4,730	9,855
Barley	Bushels	1.65	1.85	1.90	297	398	380
All Wheat	Bushels	2.75	3.60	3.25	162,800	175,104	272,090
Winter Wheat	Bushels	2.75	3.60	3.25	162,800	175,104	272,090
Soybeans	Bushels	4.19	5.43	7.10	934,161	957,472	1,275,160
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	18.50	18.60	17.00	58,923	64,449	53,567
All Hay (baled)	Ton	70.50	85.00	65.00	519,957	497,325	487,090
Alfalfa Hay (baled)	Ton	71.50	85.50	65.50	368,082	346,275	341,910
All Other Hay (baled)	Ton	62.50	79.50	61.00	151,875	151,050	145,180
All Potatoes	Cwt.	6.60	6.10	5.30	55,440	52,527	52,258
Sugar Beets	Ton	36.90	40.00		30,996	30,400	
Sunflower (all)	Cwt.	9.20	12.30	12.10	7,785	3,050	7,003
Sunflower (oil)	Cwt.	8.10	12.10	10.70	4,050	2,057	4,622
Sunflower (non-oil)	Cwt.	11.20	12.90	16.20	3,735	993	2,381
United States							
Corn for Grain	Bushels	1.97	2.32	2.45	18,888,389	20,974,734	24,803,566
Sorghum for Grain	Cwt.	3.46	4.14	4.40	979,794	876,471	965,822
Oats	Bushels	1.59	1.81	1.45	195,711	216,127	217,962
Barley	Bushels	2.22	2.72	2.90	536,582	603,796	765,783
All Wheat	Bushels	2.78	3.56	3.35	5,440,217	5,679,400	7,954,899
Winter Wheat	Bushels	2.72	3.41	3.25	3,684,817	3,835,339	5,574,444
Soybeans	Bushels	4.38	5.53	7.25	12,605,717	15,214,595	17,465,394
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	22.10	17.10	17.80	426,475	513,793	411,930
All Hay (baled)	Ton	96.50	92.40	92.90	12,597,331	12,450,234	12,330,971
Alfalfa Hay (baled)	Ton	104.00	100.00	98.00	7,523,194	7,193,786	6,921,508
All Other Hay (baled)	Ton	73.30	73.80	80.80	5,074,137	5,256,448	5,409,463
All Potatoes	Cwt.	6.99	6.69	5.85	3,057,573	3,063,597	2,686,659
Sugar Beets	Ton	39.80	39.30		1,025,306	1,089,287	
Sunflower (all)	Cwt.	9.62	12.10	11.80	325,950	299,638	312,594
Sunflower (oil)	Cwt.	9.07	11.70	11.00	254,705	242,322	250,609
Sunflower (non-oil)	Cwt.	11.60	13.70	15.20	71,245	57,316	61,985

Note: All prices in this report are marketing year average prices which do not include allowances or adjustments for commodities under government loan at the end of the marketing year, commodities forfeited to the Commodity Credit Corporation, loan deficiency payments, direct and counter cyclical payments or disaster payments.

Source: USDA NASS Crop Values 2003 Summary, February 2004.

2003 county data for wheat and oats is now available at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov:81/ipedb/>

2003 county data for corn, soybeans, sorghum, and sunflowers will be available after March 1.

## Hired Workers Down 5 Percent, Wage Rates Up 1 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 847,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 11-17, 2004, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 667,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.41 per hour during the January 2004 reference week, up 7 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.39 per hour, up 9 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned \$8.84 per hour compared with \$8.90 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at, \$8.55 per

hour, was up 5 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 38.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago. The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago occurred in the Northeast I (New England and New York), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions and in California and Florida.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) regions.

**Farm Labor: Number and Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Selected Regions and United States, January 12-18, 2003 & January 11-17, 2004 <sup>1</sup>**

Region <sup>2</sup>	Hired Workers		Wage Rates							
			All Hired Workers		Type of work					
					Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Dollars Per Hour</i>							
Lake	45	50	10.54	10.68	10.51	10.11	9.44	9.41	9.65	9.60
Cornbelt I	23	23	9.72	10.70	9.68	9.98	8.64	10.01	9.01	10.00
Cornbelt II	20	19	9.50	10.15	9.24	9.12	9.01	9.79	9.08	9.50
Northern Plains	23	23	10.00	9.75	9.18	9.89	9.43	8.78	9.37	9.11
Southern Plains	50	60	8.85	8.43	8.13	7.46	8.51	7.97	8.29	7.73
Mountain I	10	12	8.53	8.92	8.51	8.29	8.17	8.72	8.25	8.64
Mountain II	20	17	9.66	9.80	9.15	8.75	8.73	8.81	8.85	8.80
United States	729	667	9.34	9.41	8.30	8.39	8.90	8.84	8.50	8.55

<sup>1</sup> Excludes agricultural service workers.

<sup>2</sup> Regions consist of the following: Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin; Cornbelt I: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio; Cornbelt II: Iowa, Missouri; Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota; Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas; Mountain I: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming; Mountain II: Colorado, Nevada, Utah.

Source: USDA NASS Farm Labor, February 20, 2004.

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